

Maroney, Melvin Mason, Myesha Mason, Tara Mathews, Cici McCormick, Brittney McDuffie, Emily McDuffie, Aaron McGowen, William McGowen, Shelby McIntosh, Michael Meacham, Josh Merbitz, David Miller, Tyler Mingle, Josh Moore, John Morris, Zach Murray, Kayla Nickel, Michael Pagan, Stephanie Parker, Aaron Parris, Ashley Patten, Shelby Perkins, Shamikia Perry, Charlie Prazak, Darrin Pugh, Zach Pugh, Briana Rainey, Josh Raymond, Lacey Reade, Shinead Riddle, Lucas Rigo, Rivera Rico, Brett Runge, Nick Sargent, Shannon Schmitz, Tyler Shapard, Jordan Shurmer, Ashley Sledge, Corey Smathers, Devon Smith, Logan Smith, Sammy Stack, Lauren Stanley, Mary Taylor, Lindsey Tedford, Alison Thatcher, Jesse Thurgood, Curtis Vandever, Latoya Wade, Lane Waddell, Marissa Waddell, Cory Waters, Lamar White, Tandra Wilson, and Jacob Wood.

#### HONORING MSGT. JASON BILLIOT

##### HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 22, 2008*

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to MSgt. Jason Billiot, as he retires from the United States Air Force. MSgt. Jason Billiot entered the Air Force in 1988. After completing Basic Training at Lackland AFB, TX, AB Billiot went to Chanute AFB, IL to be trained as a Special Vehicle Mechanic. After completion of tech school he was assigned to the 363rd Transportation Squadron, Shaw AFB, SC. While at Shaw AFB he not only honed his skills on Firefighting and Refueling Equipment, but also attended Airmen Leadership School.

In 1994, after five years at Shaw, SRA Billiot got his first assignment to the 345th Training Squadron at Lackland AFB. He completed ASE requirements for master medium/heavy truck technician and was also awarded his CCAF degree in vehicle maintenance. Two years later, as a result of BRAC realignment, the school house was moved to the Naval Construction Training Center in Port Hueneme, California.

While in California, Sgt Billiot performed duties as MTT instructor, world training instructor, special vehicle instructor, and aircraft refueling vehicle instructor supervisor. In 1999, Sgt Billiot and his wife, Jeanne, received the blessing of the birth of their daughter, Elizabeth. In 2000, Sgt Billiot received his orders for the 354th Transportation Squadron Eielson AFB, Alaska.

While in Alaska, Sgt Billiot was supervising and running shops such as NCOIC of customer service, NCOIC of special purpose vehicle element, and superintendent of the dispensing element. He also attended the NCO Academy at Elmendorf AFB. In 2003, MSgt. Billiot was again assigned to the school house in Port Hueneme, CA. As Master Sergeant, Billiot took leadership roles as diesel phase head, gas phase head, interservice mechanic curriculum developer and skills knowledge test author. MSgt. Billiot finishes out an outstanding and eventful career after 20 years of faithful service to his country as interservice mechanic school superintendent.

It is my pleasure to recognize the character and dedication of MSgt. Billiot upon his retirement.

#### KENYA ELECTION CRISIS

##### HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 22, 2008*

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I wish to express my deep concern regarding the current crisis in the nation of Kenya. Approximately 600 people were killed in violent clashes across Kenya, following disputed presidential elections that took place on December 27, 2007. Violence erupted in Kenya after President Mwai Kibaki was declared the winner of the election and opposition leader Raila Odinga disputed the results. European Union observers have said the presidential poll was flawed and the Government of Kenya has acknowledged that voting irregularities took place.

Unfortunately, the effects of post-election violence in Kenya continue to echo throughout the country. An estimated 250,000 people have been forced from their homes and are in need of food, shelter and medicine. Human rights activists and aid workers are concerned that families displaced by the conflict will be unable to return to their homes—many of which were burned down—in the near future. Though the fighting has subsided from its peak immediately after the elections in late December, tension remains high between political opponents divided along ethnic lines. There continues to be incidences of violence, demonstrations, and looting in several neighborhoods of Nairobi and Mombasa and in large parts of the westernmost provinces.

The time has come for both the government and the opposition to enter into a good faith dialog for the benefit and welfare of the Kenyan people, who deserve a political process that reflects their dedication to transparency, democracy and progress. Therefore, it is vital for President Kibaki and Raila Odinga to come together without preconditions to discuss how to end the post-electoral crisis in a way that reflects the will of the Kenyan people. Additionally, both leaders must take steps to end the violence and ensure respect for the rule of law and respect for human rights. The full restoration of freedom of the press and freedom of peaceful assembly is an integral part of this goal.

Madam Speaker, our hearts go out to the people of Kenya who have suffered throughout the post-election ordeal and I urge the Kenyan Government and the opposition to resolve this crisis for the benefit of their people.

#### BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA DISTRICT AWARD OF MERIT

##### HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 22, 2008*

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor three constituents from South Texas: Heather Blakemore, Rene Hernandez, and Sue Stachowiak.

The three have been awarded the District Award of Merit from the Boy Scouts of America, and it is the highest award bestowed upon volunteers in a district that symbolizes their exceptional and noteworthy service to youth in the Boy Scouts of America.

Heather's involvement with scouting began as an assistant tiger cub den leader in Pack 59 for her son, Jess. Since then she has served as den leader, assistant den leader, pack committee member, and assistant scoutmaster. She has also served as the Mistress of ceremonies for the District Recognition Dinner for 2 years and Mistress of ceremonies for the Council Banquet for 1 year.

Rene's scouting career began as a den leader for his son, Rene, in Pack 25. Since then he has served as Webelos den leader and cubmaster. In 4 years, Rene has served on Cub Scout Day Camp staff, Cub Adventure weekend staff, Pinewood Derby staff, Scoutorama staff, and the district training team. He has also served as a unit commissioner and assistant district commissioner, the round-up staff, and participated in multiple Scoutreach recruitments initiatives the last 4 years.

Sue has been involved in scouting for 7 years, beginning with serving as assistant tiger cub den leader in Pack 5 for her oldest son. Since then she has served as den leader, assistant den leader, Webelos den leader, assistant Webelos den leader, assistant cubmaster, assistant scoutmaster, and troop committee member.

The Boy Scouts of America continue their tradition of providing quality programs for boys and young men. I am proud of all three parents for taking an active role in lives of our youth. These parents serve as shining examples of love and duty in our communities.

#### HONORING THE FORREST HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING BAND

##### HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 22, 2008*

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the Rocket Band of Blue of Forrest High School in Chapel Hill, TN, for winning the Division I State Championship. The Rocket Band of Blue's field commanders were also state champions, and the band took first place each for soloist baritone, high music, and high visual.

The Governor's Cup, the championship trophy they received, is one of many accolades the marching band has earned this year. The Rocket Band of Blue is the Grand Champion of the Montgomery Central Marching Contest, the Trousdale County Marching Band Yellow Jacket Invitational, and the Highland Rim Marching Contest. The band received a superior rating at the Middle Tennessee School Band and Orchestra Association Marching Festival and third place at the Mid-South Marching Invitational.

I am sure it must be very gratifying to the students, staff, parents, and supporters to see the rewards of countless hours of practice. I congratulate the Rocket Band of Blue on their accomplishments and wish them continued success in the future.

I commend the 2007 Rocket Band of Blue: Madeline Bell, Kimber Luna, Taylor Blanchett, Crystal Cannon, Rachael Harris, Kim Meachem, Brooke Russell, Caleb Boone, Lauren Fatherly, Tyler Hargrove, Tyler Mierecki, Tyler Williams, Jared Blanchett, Paul Caraglio, Matt Kline, Jana Bunkall, Jed Hall,